

TOWN OF PEMBROKE  
APPROVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
18 SEPTEMBER 2017

Chairperson Linda Peterson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee in Pembroke Town Hall at 7:30PM on 18 September, 2017. Also present were Stephen Curley, Timothy Brennan, James McCollum, John G. Brown, Jr. Stephen Walsh, and Elizabeth Monks

**Guest:** Howard Scott

Linda opened the meeting welcoming resident Howard Scott interested in joining Advisory. Mr. Scott said he is focused on cutting expenses. He said he has been a resident for 35 years and every year there's a 4% increase in taxes; he suggests making cuts. Linda asked how he planned to do that. Mr. Scott said more than 50 employees make over \$100,000 annually; nobody should make over \$100,000 a year. He suggested job sharing; make people work harder; slow down grade of pension; silly projects such as sidewalks, nobody wants sidewalks. The town doesn't need new buildings, i.e. police, fire. He was asked if he has seen the police station, he said yes and it's adequate. Stephen Curley noted the police station doesn't have holding cells and the building would be repurposed. Advisory can empathize that you want to make cuts. Advisory has worked closely with the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Departments in the past couple of years and have been critical of some things, i.e. Collecting Bargaining Agreements but have stood up at town meeting to make our own case. You would be frustrated by politicking involved; the Board of Selectmen has more say in the contracts and consensus budget with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Scott said he is in the wrong que and admitted being very combustible. He was encouraged to attend town meeting so his voice could be heard and was also invited to sit in on the Advisory meetings.

The committee thanked Mr. Scott

John Brown said the Board of Selectmen minutes from August 7, 2017 referenced a letter received from the Recreation Commission stating the DPW notified them that they will no longer maintain the grounds at the Community Center and Town Green. Linda said she spoke with Jason Federico, DPW Commissioner who said he asked the Recreation Commission when they couldn't do it and never said the DPW wouldn't do it. Stephen Walsh said the Board of Selectmen met with DPW on August 21, 2017. The committee suggested obtaining a copy of the Board of Selectmen minutes from this meeting to see the outcome.

Linda referenced the recent requests sent to the Board of Selectmen and Ed Thorne, Town Administrator with no response. Timothy Brennan suggested following up with Board of Selectmen to schedule quarterly meetings and see how quickly Advisory could get on their agenda. He also suggested asking that a financial summary of the town be presented at the October Special Town Meeting. The committee agreed to send this request to the Board of Selectmen and Ed Thorne, Town Administrator.

Upon motion moved by James McCollum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephen Walsh the meeting minutes of September 11, 2017 was

**VOTED<sup>1</sup>:** To accept the meeting minutes of 11 September 2017. Stephen Curley, John G. Brown, Jr. and Elizabeth Monks supported the motion. Timothy Brennan abstained.

Timothy Brennan reviewed and discussed the Pension Liability Analysis presentation he prepared with committee members. The pension continues to eat up more and more of the town's budget and we need to be responsible and transparent. On slide 8 he explains Actuarial value vs. Market;

<sup>1</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.

how much you have and how much you owe. The discount rate should be understood. On slide 13 he references Pembroke's unfunded liability; just 1% decrease results in a 25% increase. Slide 14 shows how PCRA actuarial assumptions; in the past seven years PCRA's FY18 estimate for employer cost has increased by 37% – not good at forecasting the future. Linda asked how this 48 page presentation trimmed to present to the Board of Selectmen. Timothy agreed he could create an appendix with most of the data. Timothy said PCRA is unaccountable to Pembroke; only accountable to retirees. The town needs a policy and methodology. Stephen Walsh said there are two things were trying to do here. We have unfunded liabilities that have to be paid off by 2030. Do we suggest we take the cost of taxes x # of households = increase in taxes? Stephen Curley said this is a lengthy presentation but we need to be realistic as to what we're asking the Board of Selectmen; they don't report to us they answer to the retirees. Stephen Curley suggested slide 14 has one of the best stats and to keep the GAPS slides. Timothy will make changes as reviewed and discussed.

Stephen Curley attended the Department Head meeting today.

- Ed Thorne, Town Administrator distributed FY19 budgets to be level funded. He did ask Department Heads to submit their "wish lists". Budgets are due by December.
- Mayflower Healthcare – expecting an 8-10% increase. The town must let Mayflower know by December if they plan to leave the plan.
- Departments were asked to submit a Revenue Fee Structure. Pembroke's fees are lower than all surrounding towns; should be at mid-point.
- The next Department Head Meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2017 to review the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Linda noted that Ben Bastianell, DPW Commissioner did not show for his appointment tonight. It may be because the DPW Article for the proposed new building may be withdrawn and resubmitted at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring.

Linda asked committee members if they would like to begin meeting at 7:00PM versus 7:30PM. All members agreed to change the start time to 7:00PM beginning Monday, September 25, 2017.

Linda said Advisory should have the Special Town Meeting Warrant for review at the next week's meeting. We will check to see if Ed Thorne, Town Administrator is available to attend.

The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:00pm.

The Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Curley, Clerk

<sup>1</sup>The Chairperson did not vote on these motion.